

***DAIL Advisory Board
September 12, 2013
Comfort Inn, Berlin***

Attendees

Board Members: Janet Cramer, Jim Coutts, Linda Berger, Robert Borden, Beth Stern, Peter Cobb, John Pierce, Steve Pouliot, Harriet Goodwin, Nancy Breiden, Max Barrows, Bill Ashe,

Guests: Amy Caffry, Laney Bruner-Canhoto, Cheryl Cumings, Jackie Majoros, Marlys Waller, Gini Milkey, Rich Atkinson

State Employees: Lisa Parro, Susan Wehry, Megan Tierney-Ward, Tara Powell, Bard Hill, Camille George

Minutes were not ready for the Board's review; they will be reviewed next month.

Janet Cramer received a letter from the Governor's office appointing her as chair of the DAIL Advisory Board.

Commissioner Wehry's Updates

DS Legislative Summer Workgroup *(More information about the workgroup below)*

A report from the DS legislative summer workgroup was submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee. One of the challenges for the DS legislative summer workgroup was to look at solutions for the \$2.5 million budget reduction. The workgroup looked at possible changes in the delivery system, as well as some short term goals. The challenge was not met; however, the workgroup did come up with 40 other ideas to pass onto the upcoming DS committee for consideration. The report is posted on the DAIL website. <http://www.dail.vermont.gov/dail-projects/dds-legislative-work-group/dds-legislative-work-group>

Accelerated Reinvestment

The big bill defined the Choices for Care (CfC) reinvestment savings formula and operational definition language. DAIL is required to present a plan for any accelerated needs to the Joint Fiscal Committee (JFC.) DAIL has requested \$210,000 for senior nutrition (which includes congregate meals as well as home delivered meals), which was approved. DAIL did not support an accelerated need for the case management shortfall from the sequestration as this need is only a one-time request. The moderate needs group waiting list has been around for a long time; therefore, it is difficult to justify why an accelerated need would be necessary in this area.

Mary Woodruff, DAIL Nutritionist, is working on the senior meals reinvestment plan. As soon as the DAIL Business Office works through the funding formula, the funds will be sent to the AAAs.

For Moderate Needs, Medicaid eligible individuals are served first. The wait list is important; however, there is a variety of ways and timeframes the information is being collected so it is difficult to obtain a clear picture about the list. The vast number of people on the waiting list is not Medicaid eligible and it is also possible that some people on the list may not be financially eligible for services. UMASS will be looking at these areas.

Adult Family Care

An e-mail notification about the Adult Family Care pilot was sent last week. The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program is providing training this week and next week. There are 8-10 agencies that are showing interest in participating in the pilot.

The board would like regular monthly updates about Adult Family Care, and would like to hear about what has worked and what has not worked in other states. When the program begins, isolation for the individuals in Adult Family Care should be monitored. There is a program named PLAN (Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network, <http://plan.ca>) that focuses on ways to make connections within the community for individuals with a disability.

Budget

DAIL is approximately 2 weeks into the fiscal budget. There is nothing to announce at this time.

Developmental Services

Camille has been in her new role for about a month.

The tri-annual system of care plan that guides developmental services is being reviewed this year. The process involves information from local DS providers and input from public meetings. <http://www.dail.vermont.gov/dail-whats-new/whats-new-documents/final-vermont-system-of-care-plan-for-developmental-disabilities-services-fy-2014-update>

DAIL Office

The Division of Licensing and Protection and the DAIL Commissioner's office, including the Business Office; Legal Unit; IT; and Program Planning and Data unit, are now located at 459 Hurricane Lane in Williston. All staff, including the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, have cubicle work stations.

The Commissioner has been involved in the Waterbury Office updates. The goal for offices to move to the new Waterbury Complex is in 2016.

Adult Protective Services (APS)

The APS litigation was settled on 8/27/13. The full settlement is on the DAIL website. As part of the settlement, two former plaintiff representatives will submit applications for appointment to the DAIL Advisory Board, and two other former plaintiff representatives will be ad hoc members of the DAIL Advisory Board APS Workgroup. In addition, an independent file review panel will be created.

Choices for Care (CfC) – Megan Tierney-Ward, Adult Services Division, Laney Bruner-Canhoto and Cheryl Cummings, UMASS

UMASS is working with DAIL on a possible CfC Moderate Needs Group (MNG) Flexible Service Option. The current MNG program will remain as it is currently, the flex option will be in addition to the current program. With the flex option, the person would have more flexibility in spending the funds for their needs. The concept is not to reallocate money this year, but use CfC funds in the budget adjustment.

Laney and Cheryl are looking at programs across the country that have the same goals, how they are set up and functioning, and the impacts they are having. UMASS will review literature, collect and process data, and do telephone interviews to obtain information about what people need, if needs are being met, if they have flexibility in funding what types of things they would want, and, just recently added in the survey, can CfC help achieve the individual's personal goals. It is important to include the caregiver in this process and what will, and will not, help them. A look at the list of exclusions and what outcome measures should be used need to be covered as well. Tomorrow invitations will be sent out requesting people to participate in interviews next week. If anyone is missing from the list provided by Laney and Cheryl, please let them know.

DAIL has notified CMS about the possibility of having a flex option in MNG and will be providing them with a follow-up this fall. According to the CMS regulations, no regulatory changes are necessary for services added; therefore, implementing a flex option should not be complicated. However, policy manual updates, forms, etc will all need to have changes made and a process to roll out the process, how much funds should be dispersed, and who this would serve would need to be decided.

If results based accountability shows that the service is working, it could be rolled in as part of the annual appropriation. DAIL would like to propose the flex service option during budget adjustment.

An update with the survey information will be brought back to the DAIL Advisory Board at the 12/12/13 meeting, and UMASS will be asking for input from the Board about endorsement.

Developmental Disability Services Division Update – Camille George, Division Director.

The budget bill had provisions around developmental disability services (DS services), including legislation creating a policy workgroup who would meet between June and August to look at ways to find a \$2.5 million savings in the services and four other tasks. The workgroup met four times, and spent time reviewing the values, principles, and mission of the department, which were taken into consideration during the discussions of any innovation or change. The workgroup came up with over 40 different ideas to consider in the long term. (*See Report of the Developmental Disabilities Services Legislative Work Group Regarding Act 50 on the DAIL website at <http://www.dail.vermont.gov/dail-projects/dds-legislative-work-group/dds-legislative-work-group>)*

A DS Legislative Task force is being created, which will include about 20 people and involve stakeholders, recipients, DAIL Advisory Board members, people knowledgeable in DS services, parents, and others. The name of the task force is: Developmental Disabilities Services Imagine the Future Task Force. The first meeting is scheduled for 9/23 and will operate similar to a workgroup, with smaller subcommittees which will work on target areas. David Peebles is the facilitator.

The commissioner asked the task force to look at the strategic vision, challenges, and priorities of DS services – what would DS services look like in 3 years.

DS services and caseloads have increased. Budget projections for FY2015 were due in the fall so the projections from 2012 and 2013 were used. In December, DAIL will review the caseload numbers for the first quarter of FY2014.

Ed Riddell, Public Safety Specialist, serves on an AHS workgroup that meets regularly about the planning for individuals in the correctional system with needs and individuals who have serious functional impairments (SFI.)

Board Updates

On Tuesday there is a webinar about taking charge of services, similar to flexible services, people living better lives and taking charge of where the funds are used.

At the last DAIL Advisory Board meeting, Beth Stern announced the Neighbor to Neighbor program was ending; however, DAIL and the State have agreed to allow the AAAs to use funds the state is putting into some other programs for recruitment, community involvement, and volunteers.

It is a very good time for the funding for nutrition programs. The AAAs cannot guarantee payment when meals go over the contracted amount so the meal sites risk not getting paid if they serve more meals than contracted. More and more people are coming to the sites and are not able to pay anything towards them. As the population ages, looking at incentive ways to make this work is important.

Nancy Breiden will send Lisa a copy of the consultant's report on the findings from the review of APS created on 5/13/13 to be forwarded to the Board.

The Board would like to receive documents for the meeting a couple weeks in advance of the meeting so they have time to review them and prepare for the meeting. It is also helpful to have someone from the DAIL Commissioner's office at the meetings.

The purpose of the DAIL Advisory Board is to give input and comments, feedback, and raise questions. It would be nice to have a report about what the Board has accomplished during the year.

Health care reform will be a big change for some of the people receiving health care in the system. One area to watch through this process is the standards and managing of long term care by acute care organizations. Forbes Magazine reports that Health Connections is reporting that Vermont health premiums will be going up 50-133% and the health plans will not be the same. It was suggested to have someone from Vermont Health Access come speak to the Board about Medicaid ACO, which planned to be in operation in January.
healthconnect.vermont.gov/

Green Mountain Self Advocates (GMSA) is in the process of doing some strategic planning and has sent out a survey to obtain feedback from people in the network. It is also creating videos for VT Family Network and updating its website.